

| <u>Claim</u> | <u>Drawings</u>     |
|--------------|---------------------|
| 17           | Figures 1 – 4       |
| 21           | Figure 25           |
| 25           | Figure 20           |
| 26           | Figures 1- 4, 8, 14 |

For reasons discussed below, all the claims presented in this Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) are patentable over the prior art cited by the Examiner.

The Ternstrom et al. patent discloses an absorbent article which utilizes elastication to shape the article. As mentioned in column 3, lines 18-23:

As a result of the inventive structurizing of the elastication, i.e., the positioning of the elastic element or elements included therein, the absorbent pad is acted upon in a manner to form one or more liquid take-up “basins or pockets”.

The basins or pockets in this reference are not formed in the same manner as in the present invention. As stated in column 3, lines 7-10:

. . . the elastic element or elements forming part of the elastication is, or are, attached to the inside of the liquid-permeable layer [top sheet] with parts of said element or elements bridging the absorbent pad . . . (Emphasis supplied).

Furthermore, in column 4, lines 12- 18, this reference discloses that:

The threads 4 [i.e., elastic elements] are attached under tension to the inner surface of the liquid-permeable layer 3 [top sheet], with the article held in a flat shape. When the tension is removed from the pre-stretched elastic threads or like elements during manufacture of the article, the article is imparted the cup or basin like shape illustrated in Fig. 1. (Emphasis supplied).

In contrast to the pocket structure of the absorbent article disclosed in Ternstrom et al., the claims in the present application call for a separate layer on top of the top sheet which forms a pocket between said top layer and the top sheet. In this manner, closed pockets are formed rather than open basins as described in the reference.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, a favorable action is requested on the claims now in this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James W. Badie', is written over a horizontal line.

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